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EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTED 1826

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

APR 23 1908

THE J. PAUL GETTY CENTER
LIBRARY

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1908.

Council.

SIR JAMES GUTHRIE, PRESIDENT.

C. MARTIN HARDIE, ESQ.
W. GRANT STEVENSON, ESQ.
HIPPOLYTE J. BLANC, ESQ.
P. W. ADAM, ESQ.
G. OGILVY REID, ESQ.
J. CAMPBELL NOBLE, ESQ.

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C. MARTIN HARDIE, ESQ.,
G. OGILVY REID, ESQ., } AUDITORS.

C. MARTIN HARDIE, ESQ.,
W. GRANT STEVENSON, ESQ., } CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

J. CAMPBELL NOBLE, ESQ.,
E. A. WALTON, ESQ.,
W. GRANT STEVENSON, ESQ.,
ROBERT BURNS, ESQ., } VISITORS OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.

REPORT.

THE Council herewith submit to the Assembly of Academicians their report for the year ending 31st December 1908, the first in which the changed date of the Academy's business year has come fully into operation. There has been less immediate inconvenience than might have been expected from the change, and your Council hope that it will ultimately conduce to the smoother working of the Academy's affairs. The year has been an arduous one in many ways, and both Academicians and Associates have been called on to render services implying much time and anxious thought in various directions other than the routine duties of membership.

As it was thought advisable, in the interests of his health, that Sir James Guthrie should spend the spring months abroad, Mr. Blanc again acted as his deputy, with much acceptance to the various meetings over which he had to preside, till, towards the beginning of May, the Academy had the pleasure of welcoming their President home in restored health.

I. The Eighty-second Annual Exhibition was opened to the public on Saturday, 1st February, and closed on Saturday, 30th May. Five hundred and thirty-nine works were shown, 421 of these being Paintings in Oil and Water-Colour, 37 works in Sculpture, 41 Architectural

Drawings (including Photographs of buildings exhibited by their Architects), and 40 Miniatures and works in Black and White. Following a custom of recent years, several representative pictures by two members lately deceased, Thomas F. Graham and David Farquharson, were borrowed for exhibition. Till the beginning of May the attendance was well maintained; but, during the closing weeks, it was adversely affected by the opening of the National Exhibition at Saughton.

II. At the Statutory General Assembly held on 12th February, Mr. A. K. Brown was elected to fill the vacancy in the list of Academicians caused by the transference of Mr. John Hutchison's name to the Honorary Retired List. At the same meeting Mr. P. Hume Brown, Professor of Ancient History and Palæography in the University of Edinburgh, was appointed the Academy's Professor of Ancient Literature, in room of the late Professor David Masson.

During the month of February, Mr. George Henry, whose headquarters have for some years been in London, was, at his own request, placed on the non-resident list.

III. At the Statutory General Assembly held on 18th March, Mr. R. Duddingstone Herdman, Mr. George Smith, Painters, and Mr. Harry S. Gamley, Sculptor, were elected to the rank of Associate.

IV. The Curators of the Library report as follows:—

"As the Library continues to be used for the general purposes of the Academy from the beginning of the year till the end of the first week in June, it has been found impossible to revert to the arrangement of having it open for one evening of the week; but the

books are available for consultation or loan on application to the Secretary or Assistant-Secretary.

"The books, drawings, and prints are, generally speaking, in good order, and catalogued up to date."

There have been added the following works:—

"A Pictorial and Descriptive Record of the Origin and Development of Arms and Armour," to which are appended 133 Plates specially drawn from the Author's Collection. By Edwin J. Brett. London, 1894.

"A Series of Subjects from the works of the late R. P. Bonnington." Drawn on Stone by J. D. Harding. London.

"La Vie et L'Œuvre de J. F. Millet." Par Alfred Sensier. Paris, 1881.

"The Grave," A Poem. By Robert Blair. Illustrated by 12 Etchings from Original Designs. London, 1808.

"Rivers of France," from Drawings by J. M. W. Turner, R.A. London, 1837.

"La Rotta De Francciosi a Terroana Novamente Facta, La Rotta De Scocesi." London, 1825.

"Batayle Betwene Englande and Scotlande." Reprint from Original work. London, 1809.

"An Exact and Circumstantial History of the Battle of Floddon in Verse." By Robert Lambe, Vicar of Norham-upon-Tweed. Berwick, 1774.

"The Mountain Bard," consisting of Ballads and Songs, Founded on Facts and Legendary Tales. By James Hogg, The Ettrick Shepherd. Edinburgh, 1807.

"The Battle of Floddon Field." Newcastle, 1822.

"The Battle of Flodden Field." By Joseph Benson, Philomath. Preston, 1773.

"The Weekly Magazine or Edinburgh Amusement." 1777.

(This book belonged to JAMES HOGG, The Ettrick Shepherd.)

"The Battle of Floddon Field: A Poem of the Sixteenth Century." By Henry Weber. Large Paper Copy. Edinburgh, 1808.

"The Battle of Floddon Field." By Henry Weber. 8vo Copy. Edinburgh, 1808.

"The Jacobite Relics of Scotland." By James Hogg. 2 vols. Edinburgh, 1819-1821.

The above 15 *Works presented by* THOMAS SCOTT, Esq., R.S.A., in 1908.

"Illustrated Catalogue of the Faience of Persia and the Nearer East: Burlington Fine Arts Club, 1907." London, 1908.

Presented by SIR THOMAS GIBSON-CARMICHAEL, BART.

"Looking Back, 1907-1860." By John Chiene, C.B., Professor of Surgery.

Presented by THE AUTHOR.

"Catalogue of the Pictures, Sculpture and Historical Articles belonging to the Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh and the Institutions therewith connected, in the Merchants' Hall and Offices, and in the Company's Schools." 1908.

Presented by THE EDINBURGH MERCHANT COMPANY.

"Memorial of the Celebration of the Carnegie Institute at Pittsburgh, Pa., April 11, 12, 13, 1907."

Presented by SIR JAMES GUTHRIE, *P*.R.S.A.

"London County Council Hall. Final Competition Designs."

Presented by HIPPOLYTE J. BLANC, Esq., R.S.A.

"Charters and Documents relating to the Collegiate Church and Hospital of the Holy Trinity, and the Trinity Hospital, Edinburgh, A.D. 1460-1661.' Edinburgh, 1871.

"Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Glasgow, A.D. 1691-1717." Glasgow, 1908

CHAS. MARTIN HARDIE, R.S.A.
W. GRANT STEVENSON, R.S.A.

During the year the Academy's collection of works of Art was augmented by the following additions:—

"Bronze Venetian Door-Knocker."

Presented by THOMAS SCOTT, Esq., R.S.A.

"Two Stone Axe-heads" found near Greenlaw, Berwickshire.

Presented by THOMAS SCOTT, Esq., R.S.A.

"Necklace of Jet or Jet-like Material." From a Cist exposed by the plough at Torr, Parish of Edderton, Ross-shire.

Presented by THOMAS SCOTT, Esq., R.S.A.

"Land's End, Cornwall." By William Miller, *H.*R.S.A.

Presented by W. F. MILLER, Esq.

"Fast Castle." By Thomas B. Blacklock.

Presented by JOHN BLACKLOCK, Esq., Kirkcudbright.

"Plaster Bust of the late William Forrest, *H.*R.S.A." By T. Stuart Burnett, A.R.S.A.

Presented by THE TRUSTEES OF THE LATE THOMAS STEWART FORREST, Esq.

"A Grey Day." By A. K. Brown, R.S.A.

Diploma Work.

"Head of the Venus de Medicis." Monochrome Study by Thomas B. Blacklock.

Presented by JOHN BLACKLOCK, Esq., Kirkcudbright.

The thanks of the President and Council were duly conveyed to the respective donors.

V. Report of the Visitors to the Life Class:—

"The Session of 1907-1908 commenced on 18th November 1907, and finished on 30th June 1908.

"There were 122 meetings of the Class, viz., 66 evening and 56 morning meetings; and the aggregate attendance was 1318.

"The Visitors have gratification in reporting on its efficiency and usefulness, as shown in the work of the students during the past

year in drawing and colour, while the President's monthly prize has had a beneficial effect in original composition.

"The number of students on the roll is 22, and the average attendance is 11.

(Signed) "J. Campbell Noble, R.S.A.
W. Grant Stevenson, R.S.A.
E. A. Walton, R.S.A.
Robt. Burns, A.R.S.A."

The Council, after inspecting the drawings and paintings done by the students during the course of the year, have pleasure in expressing their agreement with the Visitors concerning the efficiency and usefulness of the School generally, and also in regard to the various studies produced during the session.

The Council then awarded the prizes as follows:—

The Carnegie Scholarship, . .		Hugh A. Cameron.
The Chalmers Bursary,	Equal	J. Howard Lyon. Wm. A. Cuthbertson.
The Chalmers-Jervise Prize for the Best Drawing from the Life, .		Hugh A. Cameron.
Maclaine-Watters Medal, . .		Wm. A. Cuthbertson.
The Stuart Prize, . . .		George H. Paulin.
The Keith Prize, .	Equal	D. M. Sutherland. J. Howard Lyon.

VI. The Council have much satisfaction in recording the appointment recently made to the office of King's Limnership for Scotland; and they have the more pleasure in congratulating Mr. Robert Gibb on the honour conferred on him, and on the Academy, as there seemed some danger of that ancient and honourable office falling into abeyance. Your Council take this opportunity of thanking those public bodies and individuals who so successfully used their influence in this matter.

VII. The year has seen considerable development in those changes, in which the Academy are so deeply interested, involved in the passing of the National Galleries (Scotland) Bill two years ago. In particular the New Edinburgh Art College was pushed on so rapidly that, at the close of the year, the larger part of it was ready for occupation, and the classes which had been carried on with some difficulty at the Royal Institution, were shortly afterwards transferred to the new premises. At an Assembly of Academicians held early in the year, five Members of the Academy—three Academicians and two Associates—were chosen to act on the Board of Management; during the summer a Director was appointed, and a teaching staff, which includes several Members of the Academy, was organised. Your Council, in noting this new departure in Scottish Art training, and the greater and much needed facilities it provides for the application of Art to our various crafts and industries, would hope that it may also prove a stimulus to those higher branches of the Fine Arts in which the Academy are more directly interested.

VIII. The Council feel that some reference is due to the two great Art collections brought together during the summer and autumn months, in Edinburgh and London respectively.

The Edinburgh collection formed part of the Scottish National Exhibition, the leading intention of which was to show the progress and development of Scotland during the two centuries which have elapsed since the union of Parliaments in 1707. This idea was eagerly taken up by the Committee in charge of the Fine Art Section, and in no other department of the Exhibition was it so stead-

fastly kept in view or so thoroughly carried out; Scottish Art during that long period being admirably represented in the galleries at Saughton. To this result the Academy contributed materially, both by loans of works and through the labours of many of its Members associated with the committees of collection and arrangement. It is matter of satisfaction to know that the collection was fully appreciated by the crowds who thronged the galleries from May till October.

With the Franco-British collection the Academy were less intimately concerned, but your Council may draw attention to the initiative taken in the formation of a committee, on which several Scottish Art societies were represented, the purpose of which was to obtain fair treatment for Scottish Art in such exhibitions. And though the effort was not attended with direct success, your Council believe that the action of the committee had much to do with the more considerate treatment ultimately conceded in regard to the composition of the committee of arrangement; nor are they without hope that it may have furnished a basis for a still fuller recognition of the claims of Scottish Art in future International collections. The Council also desire in this connection to express their sense of the excellent service rendered by Mr. Robert Noble, who represented Scotland on the Committee.

IX. The Committee regret having to record the death of an Associate Member, Mr. Archibald D. Reid.

Born at Aberdeen in 1844 Mr. Reid, on leaving school, entered the office of the late Mr. J. F. White, merchant of that city; but the Art influences with which he was brought

in contact early inclined him to the pursuit of painting as a profession. After some preliminary study in Aberdeen, towards the close of the sixties he became a pupil at the Trustees' School, Edinburgh, and shortly afterwards he attended the Academy's Life Class. After a considerable interval of years he completed his studies in a Parisian studio.

Mr. Reid's bent was early manifested, and through life he continued faithful to those quieter aspects of landscape which first attracted him. Whether by the shores of the Moray Firth, amongst the sand dunes and meadows of Holland, or on the undulating plains of East Anglia, he preferred the mystery of diffused light or veiled sunshine to the more dramatic effects of nature. Exhibiting first in 1870, he was, during a long course of years, a liberal contributor to the Academy's Exhibition; and he also exhibited occasionally at the Royal Academy, London. The titles "A Lone Shore," 1874; "Mending Nets," 1877; "A Court in the Alhambra," 1881; "The Scotch House, Campvere, Holland," 1894; "Auxerre, France," 1896, to name only a few, may serve to give some idea of the nature and variety of his work. He was elected Associate in 1892. Of a quiet yet eminently sociable disposition, and with wide sympathies towards the kindred arts of Music and Literature, Mr. Reid was a favourite amongst a large circle of friends. He died suddenly at Wareham, Dorsetshire, on 30th September.

X. It is interesting to record that during the year there occurred the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Alexander Nasmyth, *H*.R.S.A., and the hundredth

anniversary of that of his son James Nasmyth. The former, who has been called "The father of Scottish landscape-painting," was born on 9th September 1758, the latter, the inventor of the steam-hammer, on 19th August 1808. These names, so well known in connection with Scottish Art and Science, are now indelibly associated with the Academy through the munificent bequest made some years ago by the son in memory of his father, under the name of "The Alexander Nasmyth Fund."

JAMES GUTHRIE,
President.

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY,
10*th March* 1909.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Library of the Academy on Wednesday, the 10th of March 1909, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows :—

Council.

SIR JAMES GUTHRIE, President.

P. W. ADAM, Esq.
G. OGILVY REID, Esq.
J. CAMPBELL NOBLE, Esq.
A. K. BROWN, Esq.
J. LAWTON WINGATE, Esq.
J. H. LORIMER, Esq.

W. D. M'KAY, Esq., Secretary.

HIPPOLYTE J. BLANC, Esq., Treasurer.

G. OGILVY REID, Esq.,
G. WASHINGTON BROWNE, Esq., } Auditors.

P. W. ADAM, Esq.,
G. OGILVY REID, Esq., } Curators of Library.

J. CAMPBELL NOBLE, Esq.,
E. A. WALTON, Esq.,
ROBERT M'GREGOR, Esq.,
CHARLES H. MACKIE, Esq., } Visitors of the Life School.

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